

King County Coordinated Special Needs Transportation Steering Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 6070

In attendance: Tricia Barbachan, Gaby Bell, Margaret Casey, Sofya Fischer, Pam Haithcox Eggleston, Melony Joyce, Francois Larrivee, Ref Lindmark, Jacque Mann, Katie Martin, Michael Miller, Polly Nelson, Alex O'Reilly, Bob Sahm, George Smith, Jolene Stanislawski, Patrick Tefft, Ruth Tolmasoff, Linda Wells, Michelle Zeidman, Cindy Zwart.

Welcome and Introductions

- Jacque Mann reported that her program is starting a new service with King County Metro.
- Discussion of process to move alternate to member status on the steering committee.

Steering Committee Mobility Manager

- New Mobility Manager for King County, Michelle Zeidman, was introduced and welcomed.

ORCA Card Discussion

- Ref Lindmark and Michael Miller reviewed the history of creating the ORCA card system and the differences between King County Metro and Sound Transit ORCA policies and procedures.
- Transfers: the impact of eliminating the paper transfer was highlighted. In original plan, Link light rail would not accept paper transfers; under the new policy, Link will continue to accept paper transfers until the end of 2009. Paper transfers will not be accepted in 2010.
- Tickets: Sound Transit will make a Human Services paper ticket that can be purchased at the current reduced fare rate, \$0.20 to the dollar. The purchasing agency will be responsible for writing a date on the ticket & the Inspector will check for the validated ticket.
- In the future, the ORCA card will be the only type of pass card accepted. It can be an e-purse, like a debit card, that can be reloaded. Safeway, Bartells, etc. will soon have the ORCA machines.
- The ORCA card will be like a Puget Pass that can have unlimited rides periodically loaded. Employers have ORCA business accounts. Human Service agencies have a different relationship with their clients than their employees. By the middle of 2010, if on schedule, there will be a disposable ORCA card.
- Discussion followed highlighting challenges to changing from limited value paper tickets to the ORCA.

- Puget Pass may be accepted through the middle of 2010. December 2009 Puget Pass will be the last one sold retail, but businesses/human service organizations will still be able to purchase them through mid-2010.
- Human Services ticket program books will continue to be available until there is a replacement that works for agencies. The price of the ORCA card itself was reduced from \$5 to \$3 for human service agencies. Options for loading fares onto ORCA will include monthly and annual options, one time only rides, fixed number of trips or fixed number of days.
- Service Levels: In February service reductions/changes will be implemented to realign Metro services with Link light rail. King County Council will make further changes 2010.

Announcements

- The Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative is hosting a forum on November 19 for agencies/organizations on transportation challenges faced by their clients. It might be a model for other parts of the county. Polly will email additional information to the committee.

PSRC Workshop and Coordinated Planning Process Update

- The Committee discussed the recent PSRC Workshop and how we can participate in updating the regional coordinated plan.
- King County is not required to have a local plan, but an effort must be made to include local information in the regional plan. The Committee has been asked by PSRC to send plan elements to them by the end of 2009, after we have conducted a needs assessment, inventoried services, identified gaps and developed strategies.
- Special Needs transportation issues will be integrated through out Transportation 2040.
- PSRC will provide us a Coordinated Plan Update that we can share at agency and community meetings. They are also willing to provide a speaker for such events, if we prefer. Melony will be the contact if we want to invite PSRC staff to present to different of groups on special needs/rural transportation issues in the plan. Invite PSRC staff to attend the EERC 11/19 forum.
- Committee discussed the importance of including community feedback early in the update process instead of at the end. Also, recognized the need to reach out to other agencies/organizations not represented on this Committee, including in rural communities.
- Committee discussed sharing the needs assessment with other orgs, and then asking them about service gaps and what is missing.
- Committee discussed updating government officials on KCCSNTSC plan and PSRC Coordinated Plan Update.

Inventory of Current Services

- Michael Miller discussed Inventory of Current Services update and presented draft based on old plan. He will send draft out to Committee for editing, identifying the gaps, number of clients, volunteer programs, community

shuttles, etc. Updates to the inventory need to be sent to Michael before the next meeting on 11/17.

Assessment of Transportation Needs Survey

- Margaret Casey reviewed the survey team's process and the quick turnaround getting the survey out for quick response. Senior Services sent out 1,000 and has received 300+ back. The survey is online and agencies have hard copies.
- Committee discussed ideas for developing an ongoing inventory of needs, include conducting focus groups so we have stories and the potential to add quotes on our Committee website.
- Committee discussed options for follow-up on the survey, such as inviting survey participants to a meeting to review the results and stay involved.

Discussion of Next Steps

- Invite as many organizations as possible to our 11/17 strategy session.
- Chairs and Mobility Manager need input from committee members by the second week of November, so that agenda can be prepared for 11/17.
- Committee discussed possible future of Adult Day Health transportation funding.
- Committee discussed the potential flooding of the Green River and a possible role for the KCCSNTSC. Members shared information on the opportunities and challenges in coordinating evacuation of seniors, people with disabilities, children at schools, and homeless people. Finding appropriate shelters for special needs populations may be challenging. Committee discussed the need to develop key area where we can affect change on this issue.